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Environment and sustainable development:
Convention on Biological Diversity

Venezuela:* draft resolution

Convention on Biological Diversity

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 55/201 of 20 December 2000 and 56/197 of 21 December 2001 on the Convention on Biological Diversity,[1]

Reaffirming the sovereign rights of States over their own biological resources,

Reaffirming also the commitment to the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources,

Underlining the importance of traditional knowledge of indigenous and local communities for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, the development and legal protection of that knowledge and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of its commercial use,

Taking into account the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development[2] and the Plan of Implementation[3] adopted by the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in South Africa from 26 August to 4 September 2002,

Expressing its deep appreciation for the generous offer of the Government of Malaysia to host the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties and the fourth meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Cartagena Protocol, which will be held in Kuala Lumpur in 2004,

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

[1] See United Nations Environment Programme, *Convention on Biological Diversity* (Environmental Law and Institution Programme Activity Centre), June 1992.

[2] A/CONF.199/20, chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[3] Ibid., resolution 2, annex.

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1. *Takes note* of the report of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, as submitted by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session;[4]

2. *Notes* the outcome of the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, hosted by the Government of the Netherlands from 7 to 19 April 2002;

3. *Notes also* the outcome of the third meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, held at The Hague from 22 to 26 April 2002;

4. *Welcomes* the fact that 185 countries and 1 regional economic integration organization have become parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity[5] and urges States that have not joined the Convention to become parties to it;

5. *Calls* upon parties to the Convention to become parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety as soon as possible;

6. *Reiterates* the importance of the decision of the fourth World Trade Organization Ministerial Meeting to examine, through the World Trade Organization Council on Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights, the relationship between the Agreement on Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights[6] and the Convention on Biological Diversity, as well as the protection of traditional knowledge;

7. *Underlines* the decision taken at the World Summit on Sustainable Development to pursue a more efficient and coherent implementation of the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and to achieve by 2010 a significant reduction in the current rate of loss of biological diversity, which will require the provision of new and additional financial and technical resources to developing countries, as expressed in paragraph 44 of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development,[3] and in this regard calls upon the international community to provide the necessary support to developing countries;

8. *Underlines also* the decision taken at the World Summit on Sustainable Development to negotiate an international regime to promote and safeguard the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources, as expressed in paragraph 44 (o) of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, and in this regard urges the Conference of the Parties to take the necessary steps for its prompt implementation;

9. *Notes* the ongoing work of the liaison group of the secretariats and officers of the relevant subsidiary bodies of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[6] the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa[7] and the Convention on Biological Diversity, and encourages cooperation to promote complementarities among the three secretariats while respecting their independent legal status;

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[4] See A/57/220.

[5] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1869, No. 31874.

[6] Ibid., vol. 1171, No. 30822.

[7] Ibid., vol. 1954, No. 33480.

10. *Calls upon* the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity to strengthen its efforts to help developing countries build the required national capacities to prepare for the entry into force of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety including in the areas of risk management and risk assessment;

11. *Welcomes* the launching of the pilot phase of the Biosafety Clearing House and calls for strengthened international support for developing countries to build their national capacities to interact with it and to benefit from its expeditious strengthening so that it becomes fully functional at the time of the entry into force of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, including in the areas of risk management and risk assessment;

12. *Emphasizes* the need for a substantial increase in international financial support for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocol;

13. *Invites* the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity to continue to report to the General Assembly on the ongoing work regarding the Convention;

14. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-eighth session the sub-item entitled "Convention on Biological Diversity".